

Department of Human Services

Prepared by the
DHS Office of
Communications
(517) 373-7394



Articles in Today's Clips Wednesday, February 21, 2007

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Child Abuse/Neglect/Protection	2-7
Health Care	8-10
Energy Assistance	11-12
Homelessness	13--14
Economy	15-17
Charities	18

*Important story at this spot



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published February 21, 2007

Events to focus on Lisa Holland murder trial

Judges, attorneys will speak at MSU, Cooley

By Kevin Grasha
Lansing State Journal

Key players in the trial of convicted child murderer Lisa Holland will discuss the case at two events this week.

Holland case redux

Key players in Lisa Holland's murder trial will discuss the case at two events this week. Both are open to the public.

- Thursday, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Michigan State University law school's Castle Board Room, 320B Law College Building in East Lansing.
- Friday, noon to 2 p.m. in the 6th-floor auditorium at Cooley Law School's Temple Building, 217 S. Capitol Ave. in downtown Lansing.

A symposium is scheduled Thursday evening at Michigan State University's law school; Cooley Law School is hosting its own panel discussion beginning at noon Friday.

Attorneys as well as the judges involved in the case will discuss their roles. Audience members will be able to ask questions.

Lisa Holland is serving a life sentence for the death of her 7-year-old adopted son, Ricky. Her husband, Tim Holland, was sentenced to between 30 and 60 years in prison; he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and testified against his wife.

Ricky was reported missing from his family's Williamston home on July 2, 2005, but testimony during Lisa Holland's six-week trial revealed he died the previous evening. He likely succumbed to a severe head injury inflicted about a week before he died, when Lisa Holland hit him with a tack hammer.

In January 2006, Tim Holland led police to Ricky's remains, which he had dumped near Dansville.

One of Lisa Holland's attorneys, Mike Nichols, went through three major life events during his 10-month involvement with the case: a honeymoon, the death of his father and opening a law firm with his wife.

Despite all that, Nichols said, it was critical to fulfill his role as an attorney.

He said he intends to talk about "the need to work as hard as you can to prepare - no matter how tired you are, and no matter what the evidence is against your client."

Veronica Valentine McNally, the MSU symposium's organizer, hopes the event will shed light on decisions that are made in high-profile cases.

"Hopefully, law students and the public can get insight into a lot of the factors that played into the trial," she said.

Scheduled to appear at both events are: Assistant Prosecutor Mike Ferency; Lisa Holland's attorneys Andrew Abood and Mike Nichols; Tim Holland's attorneys Frank Reynolds and Scott Mertens; Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield, who presided over the trial; and District Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, who handled the preliminary hearing.

Contact Kevin Grasha at 267-1347 or kgrasha@lsj.com.

Copyright 2007 Lansing State Journal Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service (updated August 2006)

[\[Back\]](#)



'HE LIVED FOR THAT LITTLE GIRL'

Dad, 32, found shot to death

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

By Kim Crawford

kcrawford@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6242

FLINT - In fall 2005, Tracy L. Frasier subjected himself to a background check, psychological exam, financial investigation, a study of his home and a drug test - all so he could get custody of his baby daughter, court records show.

"He fought for that baby," said neighbor Kay Wilson. "He wanted custody of her, and he got it."

Sometime after Sunday night, Frasier, 32, was killed by a gunshot to the head in the home at 3440 Brent Ave. that he shared with his daughter, now 2.

Friends and family estimate the toddler spent more than 24 hours in the home with her father's body until Frasier's co-worker, concerned that he hadn't come to work or called in sick, drove to the house Tuesday and found him dead.

Police are asking anyone with information about the case to call Sgt. Terry Coon at (810) 237-6906.

Friends and relatives of Frasier, who said he was a welder and a Saginaw native, said they were devastated at the news of his death. Neighbors like Wilson said they were shocked that Frasier, who was well-regarded, died violently.

"He was a good man, a good neighbor," Wilson said.

As Flint detectives worked at the home, a state Department of Human Services worker left with Frasier's daughter and his mother, going back to the state DHS office to prepare a petition for the state to take responsibility of the toddler.

Throughout the afternoon, outside a hearing room in Genesee County Family Court, the little blond girl played with her grandmother and family friends, drinking from a sippy cup, playing peek-a-boo with a blanket, and checking out toys, people and children around her. She just turned 2 late in January, according to court records.

Because the toddler's biological mother had signed off on her parental rights in late 2005, the state asked that the baby be placed with her grandmother, with the court taking jurisdiction of the child, effectively giving custody, or decision-making responsibility for her, to DHS.

Carolyn Boegner, an attorney-referee in Family Court, granted the petition placing the girl with her grandmother and the grandmother's husband, who live in the Detroit area. Another hearing on the girl's placement is scheduled for March 20 before Genesee Probate Judge Robert E. Weiss.

Court records indicate social workers and investigators believed the girl and her siblings had a risky life with their biological mother, who appears to have left the state.

The mother, who lived with Frasier for some years, was married to a man in South Carolina but had three children taken away from her between 2000 and 2005, the year Frasier's little girl was born. Records show

state investigators charged the mother with being addicted to drugs and alcohol and neglecting her children.

They charged in February of that year, just after Frasier's daughter was born seven weeks premature, that she would continue to use drugs and neglect her new baby.

The baby was made a ward of the court in March 2005, and it appeared she would be headed for foster care when court records indicate her father said he wanted a permanent relationship with her.

Frasier said he would conform to the state DHS requirements, and by the end of that year, social workers had recommended that she be placed with him.

Frasier agreed to have no further contact with his baby's mother, according to the records. Neighbors said he paid for her to leave town. By early fall 2006, Weiss gave full custody of the girl to Frasier.

Now his family is making funeral arrangements.

"This is so awful," said Wilson. "He lived for that little girl."

©2007 Flint Journal

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published February 21, 2007

Sex abuse alleged at southside day care

Husband of center's owner charged on 6 assault counts

By Kevin Grasha
Lansing State Journal

The husband of a woman who ran a day-care center out of the couple's Lansing home has been charged with sexually assaulting at least two children who attended the center.

Robin Terence Wood, 59, was arraigned Tuesday on six counts of criminal sexual conduct. He is accused of molesting a 4-year-old girl and a 5-year-old girl, and police say there could be other victims.



(Photo by GREG DERUITER/Lansing State Journal)
Day care: Robin Terence Wood, 59, was arraigned Tuesday on six counts of criminal sexual conduct at Mary's Quality Daycare.

Who to contact

- Anyone whose child attended Mary's Quality Daycare in Lansing and who has concerns about possible abuse should call Lansing police Detective Elizabeth Bonello at 272-7481.

Wood, who faces up to life in prison, is free on bond.

His wife, Mary Wood, ran Mary's Quality Daycare at 5015 Kessler Drive.

Police closed the business Jan. 19 after a parent notified workers at the state Department of Human Services about possible crimes at the center. At the time, Wood was caring for about six children; most were younger than 3.

Her state license has been revoked, officials said.

Five girls interviewed by police said something happened to them at the center, said Lansing police Detective Elizabeth Bonello, one of two detectives who led the investigation. Authorities based charges on the claims of the two girls.

Bonello said Robin Wood was retired. Although he did not work at the day care, she said, he was around during the day. There are no other suspects.

A woman answering the phone at the home Tuesday evening declined to comment.

Nicolle Camba, whose 2 1/2-year-old son has gone to the center since March 2005, told the State Journal on Tuesday about an incident in November that caused her concern. That morning, she dropped off her son, handing him to Mary Wood in the kitchen. She then went to her car to retrieve her son's asthma medication inhaler, which she had forgotten. When Camba came back, another

parent told her Wood had taken her son to the bathroom.

When Camba started walking toward the bathroom to kiss her son goodbye, Mary Wood held her arm, saying she couldn't go in the bathroom because Robin Wood was taking a shower.

Camba said she was too stunned to know what to do.

"I told her it's inappropriate for someone to be exposed in front of my son," she said.

Later that day, when Camba picked up her son, Mary Wood assured her it would not happen again.

Camba said she paid \$125 a week for the day-care service. Her son continued to go there until Jan. 19.

"It's so hard to trust anyone with your most precious thing in life," she said. "They have hurt us really badly."

Mary Wood's most recent license, issued in February 1992, allowed her to care for seven to 12 children, state Department of Human Services spokeswoman Maureen Sorbet said. Police said Wood had been operating a day care at the home since the 1980s.

Two complaints about Wood's day-care center had been made - in January 2002 and November 2005 - but Sorbet would not say what they were.

At a news conference Tuesday, Police Chief Mark Alley said authorities have been contacting parents of children who attended the day-care center. "We are concerned there are other ... victims out there," he said.

Contact Kevin Grasha at 267-1347 or kgrasha@lsj.com.

Copyright 2007 Lansing State Journal Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service (updated August 2006)

[\[Back\]](#)



State senators want Medicaid recipients to stay healthy to get coverage

February 20, 2007

By CHRIS CHRISTOFF

FREE PRESS LANSING BUREAU

Flanked by bushels of apples instead of high-calorie paczkis, Senate Republicans say Medicaid recipients should be required to lead healthier lifestyles as a condition for Medicaid benefits.

It's one way to get state health care costs under control, and to promote a generally healthier population, said Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, whose caucus will introduce legislation that also would expand health care coverage to low-income families.

Medicaid continues to consume about one-fourth of the state's general fund budget. Health advocates say nudging Medicaid recipients to stop smoking or get high cholesterol and blood pressure levels under control would save the state huge costs by avoiding more expensive medical treatments for heart-related diseases.

Sen. Tom George, R-Portage, said the bills would dovetail with Gov. Jennifer Granholm's proposal to expand state-paid health care to an additional 500,000 low-income people – a plan that must yet be approved by the federal government, which would pay a large portion of the cost.

The Senate plan would allow those who don't qualify for Granholm's subsidized health coverage to buy their own health insurance at a reduced rate.

George said the healthy lifestyle requirements would be determined by the state department of community health. He said it could include requiring Medicaid recipients to stop smoking, undergo health screenings, or get high cholesterol and high blood pressure under control through physician care.

Contact CHRIS CHRISTOFF at cchristoff@freepress.com.

Copyright © 2007 Detroit Free Press Inc.

Senate GOP On Board With Healthcare For Poor

MIRS, February 20, 2007

Senate Republicans have jumped on board with Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM**'s plan to offer healthcare to the state's uninsured citizens and have a few provisions of their own that will hopefully lower healthcare costs.

Senate Republicans held a press conference in which they publicly endorsed the Governor's MI First Program, which it is claimed would provide health care for the state's 550,000 poorest citizens. This first tier of the uninsured is characterized by those who are at or below 200 percent of the poverty level.

The plan is also supposed to help the other 555,000 citizens who are above 200 percent of the poverty list. The Senate Republican plan, which is called MI HEART (Helping Ensure Affordable and Reliable Treatment) would allow those who are above 200 percent of poverty buy the health insurance.

"With more than 1.1 million residents in Michigan currently without any health insurance, Senate Republicans are committed to making health care more affordable and more accessible to all Michigan residents," said Senate Majority Leader Mike **BISHOP** (R-Rochester). "Our health care plan emphasizes healthy behaviors and the need to adopt healthy lifestyles. We must change our health culture to help lower our rising health care costs.

Note: Granholm's study had the number at about 800,000. Recall that the 1.1 million figure had been challenged (See "[Michigan's Uninsured...1.1M, 800K or 200K?](#)" 01/23/07).

The Governor used the term "over half-a-million" in her State of the State Address. But today the Republicans reverted to the 1.1 million figure.

Both plans depend on a federal waiver that has yet to be approved. A month ago U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary (HHS) Mike **LEAVITT** visited the state and said the president was on board with the program, but he couldn't estimate when the waiver would go through (See "[State/Fed Ironing Out MI Healthcare Details](#)," 1/29/07).

During that same meeting, Bishop said he would do whatever he could to get the waiver through. So, Senate Republicans are on board with the plan, which is estimated to cost \$1 billion despite the fact that they've repeatedly said that the government needs to reduce spending.

When asked if the health plan is an extension of government rather than a reduction, Sen. Tom **GEORGE** (R-Texas Twp.) said, "No. This is a remodeling of health insurance we're already providing."

Some of the "remodeling" in the Republican extension of Granholm's plan includes giving Medicaid recipients and state workers incentives to make healthy choices. This might mean reducing premium costs for any participants who agree not to smoke.

George said the incentives wouldn't take anything away, but would prevent those who don't agree to the incentives from getting the incentive. He said the incentives piece could be viewed as a carrot or a stick depending on how you want to look at it.

Wednesday, Republicans will introduce a 10-bill package addressing these incentives. SB 001, which has already come out of committee, is the first bill in this package. SB 001 asks the Department of Community Health (DCH) to come up with some kind of incentives for Medicaid recipients to make healthy choices (See "[Medicaid Incentive Bill Moves](#)," 2/14/07).

Other pieces of the package include:

- Requiring schools to make kids participate in some kind of gym class for 30 minutes twice a week
- Allowing kids to stay on their parent's insurance until they're 26
- Create the MI HEART Board, which would define the benefits package

Michigan Report

February 20, 2007

GRANHOLM JOINS CALL FOR HEATING ASSISTANCE

Governor Jennifer Granholm has signed on to a letter, along with 34 other governors, asking Congress to increase the funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

The letter came on the heels of legislation, signed by President George W. Bush, that cuts LIHEAP funding by about a third for the current federal fiscal year and the president's fiscal year 2007-08 proposal would cut the program further.

"The recent snow and freezing temperatures here in Michigan verify that the demand for crisis energy assistance has not diminished," Ms. Granholm said. "As heating prices continue to be a significant challenge to our residents' wallets, Washington should work with states to make sure our most vulnerable residents can keep their homes warm."

Govs Want Heat For Poor

MIRS, February 20, 2007

Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** and 34 other governors sent a letter to Congress last week asking for \$1 billion in federal funding to help poor families pay for heat.

Last week, Congress approved and the president signed a federal spending bill that reduces funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) from last year's level by roughly one-third. The governors want more LIHEAP funding because President George W. **BUSH**'s recommendation cuts funding by \$380 million.



KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

Housing plan taking too long, say advocates

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

cricks@kalamazoogazette.com 388-8557

Advocates for the homeless say it's taking too long to create a housing-voucher program for low-income and homeless people in Kalamazoo County.

About two dozen people, some waving signs that read "PHC Breaking Housing Promises" and "How many more people have to die to get housing," attended Tuesday night's Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners meeting to urge commissioners to pressure the county's Public Housing Commission to work faster.

The county board on Dec. 5 approved a plan for the county and city of Kalamazoo to contribute up to \$500,000 each over two years to establish a housing-assistance fund.

"It has been 75 days since you have approved this," Kalamazoo Township resident Jonathan Braun told the county board Tuesday. "Nothing, or very little, has been done as far as establishing these vouchers."

Braun and others Tuesday claimed homeless people have died over the past few weeks because they couldn't find shelter from the cold, but they did not cite specific instances. County officials said they weren't aware of any such deaths and that they've checked with area shelters and been told no one was being turned away because of lack of space.

David Artley, director of office-resource development for Kalamazoo County, acknowledged that establishing a housing-voucher program is taking longer than hoped for because of city and county and also state accountability requirements for spending housing funds. He said the Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission must enter into contracts with the city and county before money will be released for vouchers.

About \$242,000 committed by the county and city will be used for the housing vouchers, and \$30,000 will go to homeless-prevention efforts, Artley said. Also, \$125,000 is earmarked to leverage state housing funds that must be used to buy, build or renovate housing, and other funds are to go into an endowment fund or be used for administrative costs and contingencies, he said.

Vouchers will be available for up to two years to holders, who would be expected during that time to accomplish goals such as acquiring job skills, earning a GED certificate or finding permanent housing.

Artley also said the program must have measurable outcomes, which was stressed by some county commissioners in approving funding.

Some advocates for the homeless were skeptical Tuesday about explanations for delays in implementing the voucher program.

"I'm angry because the Public Housing Commission has been doing whatever they can do to delay the application process," charged Kalamazoo resident Martha Davis. "At first, we were told the middle of January and then in February, and now they are talking about in March or April."

"We cannot get caught up in protecting ourselves with mounds of paperwork," said the Rev. Lorane Breyley of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. "(It's) paperwork that does not protect those who need to be protected."

Artley said he understands the anger and frustration over the amount of time it's taking to implement the voucher program but insisted he's working as quickly as he can.

``It's not a delay tactic in any shape or form," he said. ``It's having due and appropriate process."

©2007 Kalamazoo

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

PUBLISHED: Wednesday, February 21, 2007

Chrysler layoffs deal blow to Macomb's economic recovery

MCC economist says turnaround likely won't begin till end of year

By Chad Selweski
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

The battered Macomb County economy faces another year of doldrums in 2007, with the struggling auto industry generating more unemployment, according to a Macomb Community College economist.

In his 23rd annual economic forecast, Jim Jacobs said the county faces a continuing downward trend in manufacturing employment this year that dates back to 2000. He said the difficulties facing the Big Three automakers create a dark cloud over the year ahead.

"As of last week, I was going to say that we've nearly reached bottom. But with the Chrysler announcement (of 13,000 job cuts), I'm not sure about that," Jacobs told a crowd of 280 gathered at the MCC Cultural Center in Clinton Township. "But the bottom is in sight. By the end of the year we might begin to see a slight recovery."

Jacobs predicted that Macomb County unemployment, which rose to an annual average of 7.1 percent in 2006, will hit 8 percent this year as the ripples of Chrysler's cutbacks are felt. Housing prices will continue to fall, but the real estate market should stabilize later this year.

"For us, the issue is how divergent our local conditions are from the national conditions," Jacobs said, stressing that Michigan rivals hurricane-ravaged Louisiana for the bottom position in economic statistics.

Speaking at a forum sponsored by the Macomb chambers of commerce, the economist predicted that the U.S. economy will experience some "uneven growth" in 2007, but the nation's manufacturing sector will remain strong and unemployment should stay low. That contrasts with a struggling Michigan economy coping with a downsizing in the auto industry as the Big Three experience a sharp drop in the overall U.S. market share.

"The auto industry will eventually rebound but it will be smaller ... and will employ far fewer Michigan and Macomb residents," said Jacobs, director of the MCC Center for Workforce Development and Policy.

General Motors' recovery is still years away, he said. Ford Motor Co. faces an uncertain future, and DaimlerChrysler may seek a merger partner, setting off a consolidation that will further shrink operations.

The changing face of the auto business is reflected in a few statistics. The Big Three sold more than 16 million vehicles in 2006 for the eighth year in a row, but their U.S. market share dropped from 57.1 percent to 53.9 percent. The first time the domestic automakers hit the 16 million sales mark, in 1986, their market share was nearly 74 percent.

Jacobs cited several figures that reflect the dire circumstances in Macomb County:

An MCC survey completed last month found that 46 percent said the economy was the No. 1 problem facing the county -- the highest response recorded to that question by the annual survey since the deep recession of 1982. Nearly two-thirds of respondents said they know someone who is unemployed, and 39 percent said the quality of life in Macomb is getting worse.

The average selling price of a Macomb County home fell from \$185,365 in 2005 to \$169,580 last year. At the same time, mortgage foreclosures rocketed from 2,755 in 2005 to 8,192 in 2006.

Welfare caseloads are up, the number of people on Medicaid has jumped, and the volume of food distributed to struggling families by local food pantries rose from 25,000 pounds in 2001 to 65,000 pounds last year.

Some of the "wild cards" that could affect the Michigan economy, Jacobs said, include the state's budget crisis, a possible merger by Northwest Airlines, and the cost of the Iraq war, which has now risen to \$2 billion a week, plus \$300 million a day for reconstruction projects.

Yet, Jacobs said Macomb County has some good news heading into 2007.

A marketing and advertising campaign funded by the county Board of Commissioners could bear fruit, along with an agenda outlined by a business advisory group known as Focus Macomb.

In 2006, the county experienced 1,400 new jobs created by 23 private sector projects. The upscale Partridge Creek shopping mall in Clinton Township, representing one of the largest developments in county history, is slated to open in October. The mall will eventually offer 90 stores and create 4,000 jobs.

But Jacobs said the county's economic base remains with auto manufacturing, including the design and engineering firms that congregate here. The economist said that Macomb has almost become like a coal mining town in the Appalachians where a single industry has a dominant impact on the prosperity of the populace.

The ongoing financial decisions by the Big Three, plus policy decisions made in Washington that affect interest rates and currency values, have an increasing impact in Macomb.

"We do not have control over our own destiny," he said. "Twenty years ago, we actually had more control."

ClickOnDetroit.com

20th Annual Dick Purtan Radiothon To Benefit The Salvation Army

POSTED: 1:41 pm EST February 15, 2007

UPDATED: 9:52 am EST February 21, 2007

The 16-hour fundraising extravaganza is scheduled for Feb. 23.

The Salvation Army of Eastern Michigan, Motor City's 104.3 FM WOMC, Dick Purtan and Purtan's People are joining forces for the 20th Annual Dick Purtan Radiothon to raise much-needed funds for the homeless and hungry in our community.

The 20th Annual Dick Purtan Radiothon will broadcast live from the Oakland Mall in Troy from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23rd.

Visit www.salmich.org to make on-line donation or call 248-307-1043 and it will go directly to The Salvation Army's Bed and Bread program.

By making a donation of \$10 a month, for a total of \$120 a year, or \$20 a month, for a total of \$240 a year, donors gain membership to the Bed and Bread Club. Bed and Bread Club members are eligible for a Michigan tax credit and 100% of the dollars donated go to the program. Donors, who pledge \$240 or more for the year, will receive a limited-edition nine-CD box set including the "Best of Dick Purtan" show highlights from the past 20 years.

The Bed and Bread program brings food, shelter and services to countless destitute people within our community, providing them with their basic needs and assisting them to get back on their feet. The program shelters 1,700 every night and has four Bed and Bread trucks - mobile feeding units that go out each day and serve over 7,000 meals to men, women and children in need.

"One of the most painful conditions that a human being can suffer is the feeling of hunger," says Dick Purtan. "I cannot imagine what it must be like to live without access to food...it's devastating for individuals and families and because of this, I try to do all I can to help."

In the 20-years since the radiothon's launch nearly \$14 million has been raised for the Bed and Bread program. Last year's radiothon brought in an amazing \$1,808,440.

The 20th Annual Dick Purtan Radiothon will include live performances by local and national performers and interviews with celebrities and sports figures.